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## Library Bestsellers

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# And We Weren't There

by **Nat Bodian** (Publisher's Marketing Consultant)

*The indefatigable Nat Bodian is a tireless correspondent, so when I hadn't heard from him in two months, I dropped him a hand-scrawled note. It seems that he's been working on a new book. Here is an excerpt from it. —Yr. Ed.*

## Origin of America's First College Library and College Press

(Excerpted from the chapter "Book Publishing Origins, Firsts, and Curiosities in the 17th Century" in the recently-completed book *The Joy of Publishing*, © 1993, by Nat Bodian).

At his death in September 1638, John Harvard, a bachelor Puritan minister bequeathed his personal library of 260 books and half his estate (780 British pounds) to a seminar college 'in the wilderness at Newetowne' in Massachusetts. The seminary had been

established two years before, but was as yet unorganized. The event marked the founding of the first library in America.

The general court of the Colony Society of Massachusetts, mindful of John Harvard's generosity, ordered the just-organizing college to change its name to 'Harvard'. It also ordered the name of the college's locale to be changed from 'Newtowne' to 'Cambridge' to reflect the fact that most of the Colony's leaders had been educated at Cambridge University in England.

John Harvard's death coincided with the arrival in Massachusetts of the ship "John" from London bearing the first printing press to reach British North America.

The press had been bought in London by the Reverent Jose Glover who died enroute while accompanying the press to Massachusetts. A locksmith, Stephen Daye, who had accompanied

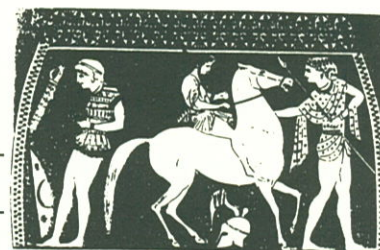
the press for the purpose of assembling it, subsequently placed the press in operation.

It came under the supervision of Harvard College when its first president, Henry Dunster, married the Widow Glover. The first printing press to begin publishing operations in North America thus also became the first college press in North America.

From 1638 to 1692, the press at Harvard College in Cambridge issued more than 200 books, pamphlets, and broadsides, including the famed Bay Psalm Book of 1640, the press's third publication, of which numerous copies still exist.

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Note: By the outset of 1993, the Harvard library ranked among the five largest libraries in the world, and the largest university library in North America.☛



## Library Bestsellers

Compiled by **Lisa Pizzuti** (Library School Student)

*These books were circulated more than 20 times in the period which the Citadel Library here in Charleston, S.C., has had an automated system (June 1989). Left off of this list, were recreational (very popular) titles, reserve materials, and reference materials. HEY! Does anyone out there want to be the COLUMN EDITOR for Library Bestsellers??? — Ed*

Agras, W. Stewart. **Eating Disorders: Management of Obesity, Bulimia, and Anorexia Nervosa.** Pergamon Press, 1987.

Allende, Isabel. **The House of the Spirits.** G.K. Hall, 1985.

Axline, Virginia Mae. **Dibs: In Search of Self; Personality Development in Play Therapy.** Houghton Mifflin, 1964.

Baker, Gary R. **Cadets In Gray: The Story of the Cadets of the South Carolina Military Academy and the Cadet Rangers in the Civil War.** Palmetto Bookworks, 1989.

Bate, Walter Jackson. **John Keats.** Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1963.

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Boccaccio, Giovanni. **The Decameron: A New Translation.** Norton, 1977.

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Bradley, A.C. **Shakespearean Tragedy; Lectures on Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, Macbeth.** Macmillan; St. Martin's Press, 1905.

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Dodsworth, Martin. **Hamlet Closely Observed.** Athlone Press, 1985.

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Durkin, Joseph Thomas. **Stephen R. Mallory: Confederate Navy Chief.** University of North Carolina Press, 1954.

Ebenstein, William. **Great Political Thinkers: Plato to the Present.** Rinehart, 1956.

Edwards, C.H. **The Historical Development of the Calculus.** Springer-Verlag, 1979.

Emerson, Ralph Waldo. **The Collected Works of Ralph Waldo Emerson, v. 1-2.** Belknap Press, 1971-1979.

Evans, Ernest. **Wars Without Splendor: The U.S. Military and Low-level Conflict.** Greenwood Press, 1987.

Finney, Claude Lee. **The Evolution of Keats's Poetry.** Russell & Russell, 1963.

Foster, Shirley. **Victorian Women's Fiction: Marriage, Freedom, and the Individual.** Barnes & Noble Books, 1985.

Fox-Genovese, Elizabeth. **Within the Plantation Household: Black and White Women of the Old South.** University of North Carolina Press, 1988.

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